DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS ☐ OR XD ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S)
EXEMPT EXEMPTIONS ☐
DECLASSIFY WARNINGS ☐
RELEASE CLASSIFIABLE ☑
PA OR FOI EXEMPTIONS
1717

REPORT FROM VIC DIKEOS AT 10:30 A.M.

FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING

-- The military operation is in "full swing". The graves registration team has been on-site all morning doing preliminary work with the full cooperation and support of the Government of Guyana. "Their cooperation has been excellent." They expect that the first group of bodies will be sent out over the next 12~~-36~~ hours. No major problems are foreseen in concluding this phase of the operation.

-- The criminal investigation is continuing. Layton has been arrested and is expected to be charged with murder shortly. Also being detained as possible suspects are Timothy and Michael Carter and Michael Prokes. These three either turned themselves in or were found by the Guyanese authorities on their arrival at Port Kaituma. We have no further details on the circumstances at the time they were detained. We have no direct information concerning press reports about money or other valuables they may have been carrying at the time.

-- Survivors now number 72, including those who happened to be in Georgetown at the time of the calamity. We have no additional light to shed on the question of how many other survivors there may be. Reports from a variety of sources still put the size of the community at the time as ranging between 800 and 1,200.

ARA:GBrown